

manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(5) **CRITERIA.**—The Secretary of Labor shall establish criteria, consistent with paragraph (6), for awarding grants under this subsection.

“(6) **PRIORITY.**—In selecting eligible entities to receive grants under this subsection, the Secretary of Labor shall give priority to eligible entities that demonstrate the availability of and ability to provide matching funds from industry or nonprofit sources. Such matching funds may be provided in cash or in kind.

“(7) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this subsection shall use the funds made available through the grant—

“(i) to establish certification requirements for a certification described in paragraph (1) for an industry;

“(ii) to develop and initiate a certification program that includes preparatory courses, course materials, procedures, and examinations, for the certification; and

“(iii) to collect and analyze data related to the program at the program's completion, and to identify best practices (consistent with paragraph (8)) that may be used by local and State workforce investment boards in the future.

“(B) **BASIS FOR REQUIREMENTS.**—The certification requirements shall be based on applicable skill standards for the industry involved that have been developed by or linked to national centers of excellence under the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education Program. The requirements shall require an individual to demonstrate an identifiable set of competencies relevant to the industry in order to receive certification. The requirements shall be designed to provide evidence of a transferable skill set that allows flexibility and mobility of workers within a high technology industry.

“(C) **RELATIONSHIP TO TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**—The eligible entity shall ensure that—

“(i) a training and education program related to competencies for the industry involved, that is flexible in mode and timeframe for delivery and that meets the needs of those seeking the certification, is offered; and

“(ii) the certification program is offered at the completion of the training and education program.

“(D) **RELATIONSHIP TO THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE.**—The eligible entity shall ensure that the certification program is consistent with the requirements for a 2-year associate degree.

“(E) **AVAILABILITY.**—The eligible entity shall ensure that the certification program is open to students pursuing associate degrees, employed workers, and displaced workers.

“(8) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary of Labor shall consult with the Director of the National Science Foundation and the Secretary of Education to ensure that the pilot projects build on the expertise and information about best practices gained through the implementation of the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education Program.

“(9) **CORE COMPONENTS; GUIDELINES; REPORTS.**—After collecting and analyzing the data obtained from the pilot programs, the Secretary of Labor shall—

“(A) establish the core components of a model high-technology certification program;

“(B) establish guidelines to assure development of a uniform set of standards and policies for such programs;

“(C) submit and prepare a report on the pilot projects to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives; and

“(D) make available to the public both the data and the report.

“(10) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 174(b), there is authorized to be appropriated \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 to carry out this subsection.”.

S. 834

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Limited English Proficiency and Integrated Workforce Training Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 system is designed—

(A) to ensure universal access for individuals in need of employment and training systems; and

(B) to equip workers with those skills that contribute to lifelong education.

(2) The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 system is designed to recognize and reinforce the link between economic development and workforce development to meet the joint demands of employers and workers.

(3) The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 system should address the ongoing shortage of essential skills in the United States workforce in sectors with economic growth to ensure the United States remains competitive in the global economy.

(4) Immigrants accounted for over 50 percent of the growth in the civilian workforce between 1990 and 2001, and assuming today's levels of immigration remain constant, immigrants will account for half of the growth in the working age population between 2006 and 2015.

(5) The growth of the United States workforce and the competitiveness of the United States economy is directly linked to immigrants, some of whom are limited English proficient.

(6) The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 system may be significantly strengthened by funding the development of an employer centered integrated workforce training program for adults with limited English proficiency, taking into account the needs of the local and regional economy and the linguistic, social, and cultural characteristics of the individual.

#### SEC. 3. INTEGRATED WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.

Section 171 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2916) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) **INTEGRATED WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.**—

“(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

“(A) **INTEGRATED WORKFORCE TRAINING.**—The term ‘integrated workforce training’ means training that integrates occupational skills training with language acquisition.

“(B) **SECRETARY.**—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Education.

“(2) **DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**—In accordance with subsection (b), the Secretary shall establish and implement a national demonstration project designed to both analyze and provide data on workforce training programs that integrate English language acquisition and occupational training.

“(3) **GRANTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out the demonstration project, the Secretary shall make not less than 10 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to provide the integrated workforce training programs. In awarding grants under this subsection the Secretary shall take into consideration awarding grants to eligible entities from diverse geographic areas, including rural areas.

“(B) **PERIODS.**—The Secretary shall make the grants for periods of not less than 24 months and not more than 48 months.

“(4) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall work in conjunction with a local board and shall include as a principal participant one or more of the following:

“(i) An employer or employer association.

“(ii) A nonprofit provider of English language instruction.

“(iii) A provider of occupational or skills training.

“(iv) A community-based organization.

“(v) An educational institution, including a 2- or 4-year college, or a technical or vocational school.

“(vi) A labor organization.

“(vii) A local board.

“(B) **EXPERTISE.**—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall have proven expertise in—

“(i) serving individuals with limited English proficiency, including individuals with lower levels of oral and written English; and

“(ii) providing workforce programs with training and English language instruction.

“(5) **APPLICATIONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(B) **CONTENTS.**—Each application submitted under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) contain information, including capability statements, that demonstrates that the eligible entity has the expertise described in paragraph (4)(B); and

“(ii) include an assurance that the program to be assisted shall—

“(I) establish a generalized adult bilingual workforce training and education model that integrates English language acquisition and occupational training, and incorporates the unique linguistic and cultural factors of the participants;

“(II) establish a framework by which the employer, employee, and other relevant members of the eligible entity can create a career development and training plan that assists both the employer and the employee to meet their long-term needs;

“(III) ensure that the framework established under subclause (II) takes into consideration the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the employee with respect to both the current and economic conditions of the employer and future labor market conditions relevant to the local area; and

“(IV) establish identifiable measures so that the progress of the employee and employer and the relative efficacy of the program can be evaluated and best practices identified.

“(6) **CRITERIA.**—The Secretary shall establish criteria for awarding grants under this subsection.

“(7) **INTEGRATED WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS.**—

“(A) **PROGRAM COMPONENTS.**—

“(i) **REQUIRED COMPONENTS.**—Each program that receives funding under this subsection shall—